



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

ATTN: OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS

Kaoru SAKAKIBARA et al.

Notice of Allowance Mailed
03/09/2004 - Batch/Confirmation No. 6864

Application No.: 10/633,685

Group Art Unit: 3765

Filed: August 5, 2003

Examiner: P. Nerbun

Docket No.: 116778

For: SEWING APPARATUS WITH NEEDLE BAR POSITION CHANGING
CONTROL

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Following are Applicants comments in reply to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in the March 9, 2004 Notice of Allowance.

In paragraph 3, page 2 of the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowing claim 1 and its dependent claims are that the claims specifically require a needle bar vertically moving mechanism so that a needle bar is changed to an upper stop position irrespective of a position of the needle bar at a time of operation of the needle bar position changing unit when a thread cassette is unattached to a cassette mount according to the result of detection by a cassette detector.

In paragraph 4, page 2 of the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowing claim 5 are that claim 5 requires a needle bar position changing control

- .. unit controlling a needle bar vertically moving mechanism so that in a case where the needle bar position changing unit has been operated, the needle bar is changed to an upper stop position irrespective of a position of a needle bar at a time of operation of the needle bar position changing unit when a thread cassette is unattached to a cassette mount according to the result of detection by a cassette detector.

However, the reasons for allowance fail to include reasons for allowance of claim 4. Applicants note that claim 4 also includes the limitation recited above with respect to claim 1. For clarification, Applicants note that claim 4 is also allowable at least because nowhere do the references of record disclose a needle bar position changing control program for a sewing apparatus including controlling a needle bar vertically moving mechanism so that a needle bar is changed to an upper stop position irrespective of a position of the needle bar at a time of operation of the needle bar position changing unit when a thread cassette is unattached to a cassette mount according to the result of detection by a cassette detector.

Further, claim 4 is also allowable at least because nowhere do the references of record disclose a needle bar position changing control program for a sewing apparatus including a needle bar position changing control program for a sewing apparatus including controlling a needle bar vertically moving mechanism so that in a case where the needle bar position changing unit has been operated, the needle bar is changed from an upper stop position to a lower stop position or from the lower stop position to the upper stop position according to a position of the needle bar at the time of operation of the needle bar position changing unit when a thread cassette is attached to a cassette mount according to the result of detection by a cassette detector.

• The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below if further comment is necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/mlv

Date: June 2, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--